

Quick Tips

If you just can't be there...

- Create labels in Word or AppleWorks with your students' names and other identifying information. Print them on large Avery labels and leave them in your sub folder. The sub can have students wear them as name tags.
- Leave your sub a video you make of yourself in which you remind students of your expectations, introduce the day's lesson, assign homework, and give any other necessary information.
- Have students spend the last 5 minutes of class e-mailing you a summary of what was learned and any questions they may have.

Inside this issue:

<i>New SEED Packets</i>	2
<i>Special Needs Students</i>	2
<i>Digital Storytelling</i>	2
<i>MSK's Apple Tree</i>	3
<i>Healthy Computing Survey</i>	3
<i>Project Citizen at LMM</i>	3
<i>Kudos</i>	4
<i>Cartoon</i>	4
<i>Quote</i>	4
<i>Favorites</i>	4

May – The Countdown Begins...

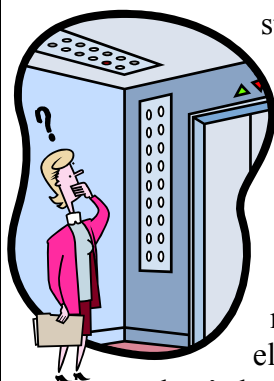
The end is near and there is still so much to do. Our first year of full (7th and 8th grade) implementation of MLTI is winding down and we're holding our collective breath, waiting for some news about expansion into the high school. We who have spent many years in the middle school trenches know that keeping kids engaged this time of year can be a real challenge. This might be a good time to talk to 8th graders about leaving their laptops in good shape for next year's 7th graders. And, if you're looking for a fun activity for you and your students, check out our Cartoon Caption Contest on page 4.

Celebrating Our Successes

We recently finished our latest round of MLTI Regional Meetings where we bring principals, teacher leaders, and tech coordinators together to talk about MLTI and what's happening in their schools. We also invited high school principals and librarians to join the conversation. We always begin by asking each school team to describe what is working well in their building and we hear some wonderful success stories.

Many schools reported that laptop use has become seamless; it's just a normal part of their everyday work. We heard that more schools are now allowing students to take the iBooks home and many schools have formed student tech teams to help with troubleshooting and to provide teachers with some classroom assistance.

Several schools told us that their annual science fairs looked very different this year. Students were using their iBooks to do research, collect data, and make charts and graphs to display that data. They were using iPhoto and iMovie to document their experiments and share them with the public. We also heard many stories about how student writing has improved because the laptops make it easier for students to receive feedback and revise their writing.



But one of the most interesting laptop stories we heard was about a student who was missing from class. The principal paged the student and asked that he report to her office. While she was waiting for the student, she sat down to check her email and found a message from the student saying he was stuck in the elevator and in need of assistance. Apparently this student's laptop has helped him become a clear and effective communicator and a creative and practical problem solver.

New SEED Packets Available

Forty-eight Maine teachers were honored at a dinner on Friday, May 7 for developing innovative, technology-rich units of study which are now available for other teachers to adapt.

The teachers are the newest group of SEED Developers and their new SEED packets have been published on the SEED Web site, <http://www.mainecenter.org/seed>.



The SEED packets continue to be valuable resources for MLTI teachers who are looking for innovative ways to help their students use technology to meet the Maine Learning Results. For more information about the SEED celebration and about how to become a SEED Adaptor, please read Mike Nolette's report on *MaineLearns*.



Click on Community

Special Needs Students Experience Success

We hear many success stories about how the laptops are changing the way we teach and learn. Many of the most stunning success stories come from Special Ed. Teachers.

Doug Bird, Special Ed. Teacher at Trenton Elementary School sends us a report of how his students have benefited from one-to-one computing. Doug's students are more engaged in the learning process, partly because they find fixing their errors to be much less painful than it

was when they had to use pencil and paper. This has allowed them to see their mistakes as part of the learning process.

The iBooks also allow students to see and hear material as often as then need to, without the embarrassment of having to ask for help.

Doug also shares some Web resources he has used successfully with his students. To read the full story, go to the What Works section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on What Works

Digital Storytelling

MLTI is sponsoring a two-day Digital Storytelling Seminar to be held on May 27 and 28 at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. Twelve Language Arts and Performing Arts teachers will attend the first day and each teacher will bring two students to the seminar the second day.

The Seminar will be conducted by Dr. Ruben R. Puendtedura, founder and President of Hippasus, an educational consulting firm that specializes in transformative forms of information technologies in education. The teachers who



Once upon a time...

participate in this seminar will be introduced to digital storytelling and how it can be used in the classroom. They will work with students the second day in a hands-on session to learn to use the digital storytelling technologies.

To learn more, download the brochure from *MaineLearns* or contact Barbara Greenstone.



Click on Professional Development

MSK's Apple Tree

Student Tech Teams play an important part in the success of MLTI in our middle schools. The Middle School of the Kennebunks has formed a tech team and has developed an innovative method in which staff can communicate their needs for technical assistance to the students.

Inspired by the “giving” trees that appear during the holidays, Sheila Wells and Marian Reagan came up with the idea for an Apple Tree on which teachers place “apples” with requests for

assistance and the tech team members pick the apples and respond to the requests. They’ve found this to be a very

effective way to match tech team members’ expertise with jobs that need to be done in classrooms or the computer lab. To learn more about the Apple Tree, read the article in the Featured Profile section of *MaineLearns*.



[Click on Featured Profile](#)

Healthy Computing Survey

As part of Technology Integrators & Collaborators’ (TIC) impact study of classroom space and ergonomics, TIC has designed a survey for MLTI teacher leaders to share their experience & observations as we examine the interaction between space, furniture, laptops & peripherals, classroom configuration, teaching, learning & ergonomics health at

http://www.technologyintegrators.org/MLTI_class_design_survey.htm

This data and MLTI photographic documentation will serve as a resource for school communities, facilities planners, Maine’s DOE, designers, architects, and those interested in learning from MLTI. Individual school data will be kept confidential, composite data and summary reporting will be made available to all participating schools by November of 2004. For more information check *MaineLearns* or contact John M. Robbins:

johnr@technologyintegrators.org



[Click on Educator Assistants – Across the Curriculum – Assessment / Best Practices](#)

Project Citizen at Lyman Moore

Students at Lyman Moore Middle School have been involved in *Project Citizen*, a national program sponsored by the Center for Civic



Education. Through this program, students identify problems in their communities,

research alternative solutions, propose policies and develop plans for putting their proposals into action.

Some students decided to tackle the issue of expansion of the MLTI to the high school. They addressed local and state policy makers and eight of them will be taking their work to a National Showcase this summer in Salt Lake City Utah.

To learn more about Project Citizen and the Lyman Moore students’ accomplishments, visit *MaineLearns*.



[Click on Resources - Stories](#)

MLTI Update

Published Monthly
by the MLTI Staff

Editors *Barbara Greenstone*
Kelly Arsenault

Contributors *Mike Nolette*
Doug Bird
Sheila Wells
John Robbins
Jen Coose
Andrew Greenstone

Comments or suggestions? Send them to
BGreenstoneMAM@middlemaine.org or
KArsenaultLMM@middlemaine.org

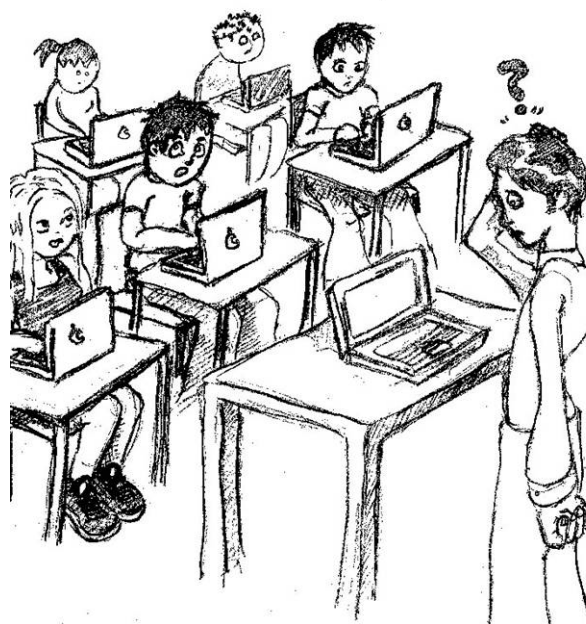
Read MLTI Update online!
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



Click on About Us

Kudos to...

... Nancy Hayes of Lake Region Middle School for her reflection piece, *Confessions of a PortaPortal Princess*. Click on *Resources - Stories*.



Cartoon Caption Contest: This cartoon needs a caption! Send your ideas to bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org. We'll publish the wittiest, most appropriate one in our June newsletter. The winner will receive a year's subscription to *Wired Magazine*, courtesy of JimMoulton.org

Quote of the Month

"Instruction begins when you, the teacher, learn from the learner; put yourself in his place so that you may understand... what he learns and the way he understands it."

Soren Kierkegaard

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Barbara's first favorite this month is *Justice Learning*, <http://www.justicelearning.org>. This site was created in a partnership between the NPR radio show *Justice Talking* and the *New York Times*.

This is a wonderful resource for getting students involved in meaningful discourse about issues that are relevant to them. Students can listen to audio files and read articles from the *New York Times* about each of the issues and teachers will find lesson plans on the Teaching Materials

page.

If you are starting a debate club or just want your students to experience formal debate, check out *Deatabase*, <http://www.debatabase.org>. The site is a creation of IDEA, the International Debate Education Association, whose mission is to encourage students and teachers to examine issues that affect their lives and their communities. This is a searchable database of hundreds of debate topics, where students can find arguments for and against each issue as well as links to related web sites and

Next Month: Kelly's Favorites.